

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 081210Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

SECSTATE WASHDC 5757

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 0048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,TU

SUBJ: CAMPUS UNREST CONTINUES

REF: ISTANBUL 3436

SUMMARY: NEW YEAR OPENED WITH CONTINUING RIGHT-LEFT CLASHES
ON CAMPUS AND BOYCOTT OF CLASSES. WHILE AUTHORITIES SHOW
RESTRAINT, MILITARY INDICATES IT CLOSELY FOLLOWING SITUATION.
END SUMMARY

1. CONTINUING STUDENT VIOLENCE OPENED NEW YEAR AS RIGHT AND
LEFTISTS CLASHED JAN. 6 ON ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY(IU) CAMPUS. BY
TIME POLICE ARRIVED ON SCENE THREE STUDENTS HAD SUFFERED KNIFE
AND BULLET WOUNDS. AS IN PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS EACH SIDE BLAMED
OTHER--LEFT CLAIMED PROVOCATIVE ATTEMPT BY RIGHTIST "COMMANDOS",
WHILE RIGHT ACCUSED LEFTISTS OF SEEKING PREVENT STUDENTS ATTENDING
CLASSES IN MEMORY LEFTIST STUDENT KILLED DEC. 19, 1974 DURING
DEMONSTRATION AT ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL ACADEMY. LEFTIST
STUDENT LATER MET WITH IU RECTOR AND DEMANDED PROTECTION. SAME
DEMAND VOICED IN COMMUNIQUE FROM EXTREME LEFT ISTANBUL HIGHER
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (IYOKD).

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2. STUDENT DSICOUNT ALSO SPREAD TO BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY (BU) WHERE THREE-DAY BOYCOTT OF CLASSES ANNOUNCED JAN. 6 IN PROTEST OVER JUNIOR COLLEGE (ON LISANS) PROGRAM. STUDENTS AT BU TELL US PROTEST ORGANIZED BY LEFTIST MILITANTS WHO RETURNED TO UNIVERSITY LAST YEAR AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON THROUGH AMNESTY LAW. LEFT ALLEGEDLY HAS BEEN SEEKING, AND NOW HAS FOUND, LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCE TO EXPLOIT IN ORDER GAIN LEADERSHIP POSITION IN STUDENT BODY. WHILE SIMILAR BOYCOTTS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY IN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIES, BU HAD NOT BEEN AFFECTED UNTIL PRESENT.

3. COMMENT: UNIVERSITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE ACTED WITH RESTRAINT. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS, HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES DESPITE NECESSITY FOR POLICE TO ENTER CAMPUSES AND IN ONE INSTANCE CLOSE CITY BRIDGES IN ORDER MAINTAIN PEACE (REFTTEL), THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE POLICE-STUDENT VIOLENCE. MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES, WHO HAVE REMAINED IN BACKGROUND DURING SPATE OF CLASHES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS, WERE FINALLY MOVED TO ACTION BY MOST RECENT EVENT. AN ELLIPTICALLY-WORDED COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JAN. 7 BY 1ST ARMY AND MARTIAL LAW COMMANDER OZGOCMEN REMINDS CITIZENS THAT PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED BY LAW, NOT VIOLENCE, AND MILITARY STANDING BY TO PRESERVE ORDER. MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES ARE KNOWN TO BE SENSITIVE TO PREVIOUS CHARGES BY LEFTISTS OF FAVORING RIGHTIST COMMANDOS AND WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE HANDLING OF SUCH MATTERS TO POLICE IF POSSIBLE. ISSUANCE THIS PUBLIC, ALBEIT VERY LOW-KEY WARNING, IS EFFORT TO INHIBIT FURTHER CLASHES. IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

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